### **Decision Making**

Generating and applying criteria to select from among seemingly equal alternatives (9 of 13 thinking/reasoning skill processes)

## Creating a Performance Task

**Step 1:** Identify a content standard to be taught.

**Step 2:** Select thinking/reasoning skill processes.

**Step 3:** Write a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the task incorporating steps 1 and 2.

**Step 4:** Identify standards from Learner Performance goals (LLL) to be included and revise task to make these standards explicit.

**Step 5:** Identify what kind of product/performance will be produced, add it to the performance task description.

# Teaching a Thinking Skill

- Introduce skill, give several examples, and discuss its performance (when, where, how to use it).
- Explain mental processes to do the thinking, model the process.
- □ Let students practice the skill several times using personal, easy to understand content.
- Put the skill into the context of your academic content.
- □ Model, model, model!

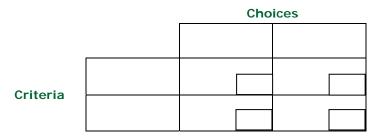
#### **Question the Process Helps Explore**

□ Is there an important decision that should be studied or made?

#### **Steps in the Process**

- 1. Identify a decision you wish to make.
- 2. Write the decision question in a number of different ways until it accurately reflects the situation.
- 3. Identify the different alternatives you are considering.
- 4. Identify the criteria you consider important to a good decision or the things you want to accomplish as a result of your decision.
- 5. Assign each criterion an importance score.
- Determine extent to which each alternative possesses each criterion.
- 7. Multiply the criterion scores by the alternative scores.
- 8. Determine which alternative has the highest total points.
- 9. Based on your reaction to the selected alternative, determine if you want to change importance scores or add/drop criteria.

### **Optional Graphic Organizers**



#### **Example**

It is 1969. You are on the board of TIME Magazine. Your job is to select the "Person of the Decade" for the December issue cover. Be able to justify your decision.

